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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC 03291-88  
9 November 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Charles E. Allen  
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

SUBJECT: Poland: New Confrontation Possible

1. The attached Special Warning Topic Memorandum contains my views on intensified government and labor disputes in Poland. The Polish government, led by new Prime Minister Rakowski who intensely dislikes Solidarity and its leader, Walesa, is now pursuing an aggressive course against Solidarity which could lead to violence and national crisis.

2. The National Intelligence Officer for Warning and his staff prepared this Warning Memorandum and are entirely responsible for its contents.

[Redacted Signature]

*Charles E. Allen*

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Attachment:  
As stated

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SPECIAL WARNING TOPIC

Poland: New Confrontation Possible

The stage has been set for a major confrontation between the Jaruzelski regime and Solidarity. The regime's de facto repudiation of its agreement to open roundtable talks in exchange for Solidarity leader Walesa's assistance in ending strikes last August has created a potentially explosive test of strength.

Warsaw authorities are pursuing high risk tactics in attempting to discredit Walesa and divide him and his advisers from rank-and-file workers and, ultimately, destroy Solidarity. The decision to close the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk was intended to demonstrate Walesa's inability to protect even Solidarity's birthplace. These tactics may prove to be a major miscalculation. Walesa is under heavy pressure to achieve both a reversal of the shipyard decision and legalization of the union, and Warsaw's hardline tactics may force him to abandon efforts to keep the door open to negotiations while appeasing militant workers and rivals in Solidarity's leadership.

Tensions are mounting rapidly and further provocations by the regime might trigger violent clashes which could quickly escalate into a major national crisis.

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